GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1851
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF STEEL
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Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita consumption of steel in India is very low at 27 kg. against a world average of 116 kg.;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to promote domestic consumption of steel;

(c) whether India is suffering from low productivity in steel Industry against a much higher average world-wide; and

(d) the plans on the anvil to put back the steel industry on the rails?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by Government to raise consumption level of steel in the country, include
(i) constitution of a National Campaign Committee to promote steel consumption through development of markets especially in the rural areas,
(ii) encouraging usage of steel in new application areas such as grain storage systems, crash barriers in highways and expressways,
(iii) providing financial support to R&D ventures in iron and steel sector to reduce production cost,
(iv) constitution of a committee to augment use of domestic steel in the automobile sector,
(v) organising seminars for dissemination of knowledge on the use of steel and
(vi) setting up of service centers to supply steel products as per the specific needs of the consumers.

(c) Productivity in certain segments of production facilities, like blast furnaces, labour etc. of some of the integrated steel plants is of a level comparable to the best in the world. However, there is a scope for improvement in productivity in many techno-economic parameters of different plants.

(d) Most of the older steel plants have modernised their production facilities and adopted the latest state-of-the-art technologies. Steel plants set up in the latter part of the nineties have adopted advanced technologies on their own. The Government has also been encouraging research and development activities with financial assistance from the Steel Development Fund (SDF).